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Letter dated 3 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to my letter dated 24 November 2015, I am writing to you with regard to another violation, established by the Turkish air defence system, of the Turkish airspace by a Russian combat aircraft.

An SU-34-type Russian aircraft violated Turkish airspace for 23 seconds at a depth of 0.4 nautical miles and for a distance of 2.7 nautical miles in the vicinity of Karkamış/Gaziantep on 29 January 2016 at 11.46 hours local time, while flying at an altitude of 16,000 feet. The violation started at 36°45'16"N-037°47'25"E and ended at 36°45'03"N-037°44'29"E. Before the incident occurred, the aircraft had been warned numerous times by Turkish authorities, in both Russian and English, to alter its course.

The airspace violation was also detected by the NATO Combined Air Operations Centre in Spain, and the NATO Secretary General confirmed in his statement of 30 January that a Russian combat aircraft had violated the Turkish airspace.

Despite several previous explicit warnings, this violation is actually the second of its kind, after the incident that took place on 24 November 2015, and constitutes another concrete example of continuing escalatory Russian behaviour.

The Russian ambassador to Ankara was summoned to the Turkish Ministry for Foreign Affairs following the incident on 29 January, and the violation of Turkish airspace was strongly protested. Turkey also proposed holding a telephone conversation at the presidential level following this incident. Regretfully, as in the aftermath of the 24 November incident, the Russian side refrained from such direct communication.

As was reiterated in the statement of the Turkish Ministry for Foreign Affairs on 30 January 2016 (see annex), we once again call on Russia to act responsibly and not to violate Turkish airspace. We underline that such grave actions could have serious consequences, the responsibility for which will rest entirely with the Russian Federation.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Permanent Representative

16-01471 (E) 040216

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Annex to the letter dated 3 February 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Press release regarding the violation of Turkish airspace on 29 January 2016 by an aircraft of the Russian Federation

Yesterday (29 January 2016), at 11.46 hours local time, an SU-34-type Russian aircraft violated Turkish airspace.

Before the violation actually took place, the Russian plane was warned numerous times by Turkish air radar units, through appropriate channels, in both English and Russian.

This new violation occurred despite several previous explicit statements of warning by both Turkey and NATO and is yet another concrete example of escalatory Russian behaviour.

We once again explicitly call on Russia to act responsibly and not to violate Turkish airspace, which is NATO airspace. We underline that such actions could have serious consequences, the responsibility for which will rest entirely with the Russian Federation.

The Russian Ambassador to Ankara was summoned to the Ministry for Foreign Affairs yesterday evening. At the meeting, we strongly protested and condemned this violation and reiterated, once again, the aforementioned concerns as to the gravity of such violations.